



*Office of the United States Attorney  
Amul R. Thapar  
Eastern District of Kentucky*

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## **Former Bath County Judge Executive, Former Bath County Attorney Sentenced**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**LEXINGTON, Ky.** — The former Judge Executive and the former County Attorney for Bath County were sentenced today by United States District Court Chief Judge Joseph M. Hood.

Walter Shrout, former Judge Executive, was sentenced to 27 months incarceration, after he was found guilty by a federal jury in March of this year of conspiracy to buy votes, making false statements to a federal agent and obstruction of justice in relation to the May 2006 Primary for County Judge Executive.

Donald "Champ" Maze, former County Attorney, was sentenced to 21 months imprisonment and ordered to pay a \$50,000 fine, after he pleaded guilty to buying votes, aiding and abetting, and perjury in February of this year, four days into his jury trial.

Shrout, 55, of Sharpsburg, Ky., and Maze, 46, of Owingsville, Ky., were indicted in November of 2006 as part of an ongoing FBI investigation into vote buying that occurred during the May 2006 primary election in Bath County. As of today, a total of 13 individuals have been indicted in relation to the investigation.

Shrout and Maze both won the May 2006 primary, Shrout beating Michael Swartz and Maze beating Kim Price Hunt, who at the time was the incumbent. Shrout and Maze were both ordered to resign from office by Judge Hood after the guilty verdict/plea.

United States Attorney Amul R. Thapar said his office is committed to fighting public corruption at all levels and restoring the confidence citizens have in the voting process.

"These individuals took the very heart of our electoral process and used it for personal gain and selfish ambitions," Thapar said. "Citizen's trust in government starts with their local level officials; if citizen's can not trust them, government can not work properly."

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The United States was represented in the case by Assistant United States Attorney Kenneth R. Taylor.

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